

# Early Detection of Breast Cancer Can Save Your Life

I thought I was afraid of cancer. I learned that I was not," said Jeannie Mulford, wife of Ambassador David C. Mulford, addressing an October 25 news conference with other breast cancer survivors. Mrs. Mulford was speaking publicly for the first time about her battle with the disease.

She talked about her choices, her surgery, losing her hair, about how successful breast reconstruction can be, the support she and her family received in India, her recovery, and the lessons she learned.

"What I learned was that if I could speak openly about breast cancer, as I have done so today, and if only one woman is moved to have an exam that exposes breast cancer in an early, treatable stage that saves her life, it will have been worth every minute of the journey for me," she said.

In Mrs. Mulford's case, an annual mammogram test detected the cancer. Nine out of 10 women whose breast cancer is diagnosed in the earliest stage survive.

Two Indian women who have also overcome breast cancer—FabIndia textile company owner Bim Bissell, and Devika Bhojwani, vice president of the Women's Cancer Initiative at Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai—gave the same message at the New Delhi news conference. They took their doctors' advice to get a mammogram, and survived. Last year, there were an estimated 79,000 new cases in India.

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